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17 August 1984

Worldwide Report

EPIDEMIOLOGY

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17 August 1984

WORLDWIDE REPORT

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MALARIA INCIDENCE OF RISING CONCERN TO HEALTH AUTHORITIES

Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 8 Jul 84 p 23

[Text] A disease considered to have been virtually eradicated in the state of Sao Paulo, the by now almost forgotten malaria, is again concerning the state's health authorities. The reason is an increase in the number of cases recorded between 1980 and 1983. The main feature has been the fact that the victims had been located in Amazonia. In 1983, there were eight fatalities.

Yesterday, at the SBPC [Brazilian Society for the Advancement of Science], the researchers Dalva Wanderley and Jose Carlos Andrade, from the Health Secretariat's superintendency for endemic control, submitted rather serious data on the disease in Sao Paulo.

For example, the number of cases of Sao Paulo residents who returned to Sao Paulo with malaria rose from 1,200 per year, recorded between 1980 and 1982, to 1,600 in 1983. Of the 5,370 cases of the disease recorded in the state between 1980 and 1983, only 126 originated here. The rest, constituting 97 percent of the cases, were imported from Amazonia, where the individuals affected, originally from Sao Paulo, had spent a period of time, primarily for employment reasons.

Researcher Jose Carlos Andrade thinks that it is mistaken to believe that malaria has been eradicated either in the state of Sao Paulo or in Brazil. In his view, there was talk of the eradication of the disease nationwide about 5 years ago, but this has not happened. At present, more realistically, the health authorities are talking about eradication over the short term, in some areas such as Sao Paulo, or over the long term, in the case of Amazonia. According to the Sao Paulo researcher, in Amazonia the disease is "virtually uncontrollable." There, the difficulty with control stems from the need for a "change of social structure," in the opinion of Jose Carlos Andrade. He maintained: "There the majority of the houses of the workers in the mining settlements have no walls. How can they be treated with DDT to eliminate the mosquitoes who are the vectors of the disease? The individual working in Amazonia is living in the forest, where there is deforestation, or on the banks of rivers, literally the dwellings of the vector mosquitoes."

The impossibility of controlling the disease in Amazonia over the short term has influenced the incidence of the disease in Sao Paulo, because 95 percent

of the 5,244 cases imported between 1980 and 1983 involved persons who had come from Amazonia. Over 50 percent of the Sao Paulo residents affected in Amazonia had gone to the region to work in mining, primarily in prospecting settlements, followed in second place by drivers working on long-distance hauling (29 percent of those struck). A total of 85 percent of the Sao Paulo residents infected with malaria had gone to Roraima, Mato Grosso and Para. In those states, the research done by technicians from SUCAM [Superintendency for Public Health Campaigns] (repeat, SUCAM) ascertained that 60 percent of the cases in Roraima occurred among those coming from Porto Velho; 52 percent of the cases in Mato Grosso were among those arriving from Colider [sic]; and, among the victims from Para, 61 percent of the cases were from Conceicao, Araguaia, Maraba and Itaitu.

The state of Sao Paulo, however, has areas with a greater incidence. They are primarily the Coastal, Santista Lowlands, Northern Coastal and Ribeira Valley areas. In those localities, a contribution of 114 out of 126 autochthonous cases recorded was detected, all involving malaria caused by *plasmodium vivax* (RPT *plasmodium vivax*), the less serious type; while 11 cases of more serious malaria (*falsiparum*) were recorded in the area of Sao Jose do Rio Preto (nine cases), the Campinas area (one case) and Miracatu (one case).

The principal measure proposed for the state's control of the disease is precautions for sanitation. The researchers from SUCAM are attempting to intensify this control in the leading Sao Paulo areas affected by the disease (the Coastal and Ribeira Valley areas), which are more isolated or difficult to reach, and where it is thought that there are traces of malaria, a disease that can infect countless times.

In addition to this, Jose Carlos Andrade advised that persons with the classic symptoms of the disease (high, intermittent fever, sweating and chills) contact without delay the closest health center or SUCAM, located at 649 Tamandare Street, telephone 279-2400. The researcher noted that the symptoms of the disease are often confused with those of heavy influenza by physicians who are not used to the disease in the state now. Early detection of the disease makes it possible not only for the clinical condition (which in the case of *falsiparum* malaria can lead to death) not to become worse, but also for the transmission cycle not to be completed. He explained that the disease is not caught from physical contact with the one infected by any means, but rather when the anopheles mosquito, after biting a sick person, transmits the disease to another individual.

There is not yet any vaccine against malaria, but the SUCAM researchers reported that it is being investigated by two Brazilian scientists abroad. One of them is Luiz Hildebrando Pereira da Silva, who is at the Pasteur Institute in France; and the other is Ruth Nussenzweig, who is in the parasitology division at New York University.

2909

CSO: 5400/2081

AUTHORITIES DENY MEASLES EPIDEMIC IN SAO PAULO

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 20 Jul 84 p 10

[Text] The state health authorities refuse to admit the claims that there has been an outbreak or epidemic of measles in Greater Sao Paulo. But their own statistics disclose that from January up to the first week in July, at the Emilio Ribas Hospital alone, 32 deaths were recorded out of 303 cases hospitalized. In the entire state, there were 814 hospitalizations during the first 6 months of the year.

And even considering the fact that, during the first week of this month, the incidence of measles increased to 90 cases per week, as compared with 55 per week recorded in June, while the average hospitalizations since the beginning of the year was from 10 to 15 cases, Dr Alexandre Vranjac, of the Community Health Coordinating Board, does not consider these figures "alarming."

Alexandre Vranjac cited a group of factors supporting his ostensible calmness, during a period when the Health Secretariat is conducting a campaign to intensify the immunization of children between the ages of 9 months and 5 years, using supplies amounting to 1.95 million doses of vaccine.

The physician explained that the increase in the number of measles cases during the past 2 months occurred owing to "a cyclical variation in the disease, which takes place at intervals of between 3 and 5 years." He gave a reminder that most of the diseases transmitted through the respiratory system, such as measles, show a greater incidence during the winter, "primarily in cities with a major cycle of migration."

Vranjac noted: "Despite the good vaccination coverage, which has been kept at about 80 percent, there are always problems in effectively controlling measles, because of the epidemiological structure of Greater Sao Paulo, whose population density, with several pockets of poverty, fosters the spread of the disease."

Preferring to use the expression "increase in cases," the doctor avoided mentioning a measles outbreak, and does not think that, unlike what has occurred in other states, the incidence of the disease rose because Sao Paulo has not participated in the vaccination against measles carried out during the national day for anti-poliomyelitis vaccination.

Yesterday, Alexandre Vranjac remarked that the immunization against measles was not implemented jointly with the anti-polio vaccinations, "because the vaccines allocated for the state were taken to Parana." At the start of the campaign to intensify the anti-measles immunization, the physician claimed that, at the time, the State Health Secretariat did not have sufficiently trained personnel to carry it out.

Alert

Reiterating the fact that the health authorities "are not frightened" by the increase in the number of hospitalizations, Alexandre Vranjac put forth an appeal to mothers to take their children to the health stations for vaccination. He gave a reminder that on Saturday, 28 July, the entire system of state and municipal health centers of Greater Sao Paulo will be operating from 0800 until 1700 hours, to treat the population.

In addition, the Health Secretariat requests mothers to bring their childrens' vaccination records.

2909

CS0: 5400/2081

CASES OF AIDS INCREASING IN SAO PAULO

Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 8 Jul 84 p 23

[Text] At a mini-conference dealing with "acquired immunodeficiency syndrome: (AIDS), clinical, epidemiological and psychosocial aspects," held yesterday, the director of the sanitary dermatology division of the State of Sao Paulo Health Secretariat, Paulo Roberto Teixeira, disclosed that the tally of new cases of that disease is continuing in geometric progression, at the rate of twice as many each half-year. During the first 6 months of this year, nearly 30 cases were recorded in the state, and it is anticipated that by the year's end a total of 120 new patients will be tallied for 1984. The figure is in contrast to the 23 cases last year, and only eight discovered in 1982, when AIDS started receiving special attention from the health authorities.

Paulo Teixeira also revealed to the nearly 200 persons gathered in an auditorium of the School of Economics and Administration that 60 percent of the new patients do not have and have not had any contact with foreign countries or with persons recently arriving from abroad; and that, on the contrary, among the first victims there is now an incidence in all brackets of purchasing power (AIDS began among the most well-to-do strata of the population).

Recapitulating, the Health Secretariat official gave a reminder that acquired immunodeficiency syndrome was detected for the first time in the United States about 1978, noting in the first group of patients a higher incidence of homosexual partners or individuals infected by syringes used previously by infected persons.

In Brazil, concurrently with the panic created by the news that the press carried about AIDS, a group from the homosexual community contacted the Sao Paulo Health Secretariat, seeking assistance and information from both its members and the medical community, which has tended to diagnose mistakenly marked weight loss, increase in the volume of ganglions, constant fever, diarrhea and coughing (symptoms which occur during the so-called prodromal period preceding the so-called "opportunistic" infections, or Kaposi sarcoma, when the disease is definitively characterized).

This joint community (which is not the sole victim of AIDS) and state government program went into effect in August of last year.

There have been similar initiatives in Rio Grande do Sul and Rio de Janeiro. The other Brazilian victims of the disease number 84.

In Sao Paulo, of the 58 cases recorded since 1982, 29 resulted in death. In the United States, the death rate is 70 percent 2 years after the disease has been diagnosed, and 100 percent in 5 years. In Brazil, the patient's life is shorter, and he succumbs in 6 months.

2909

CSO: 5400/2081

BRIEFS

DENGUE EPIDEMIC IN COUNTRYSIDE--Authorities from the Epidemiology Department at the Health Ministry have confirmed that an outbreak of hemorrhagic dengue is affecting the rural population. Without revealing figures, spokesmen from the office said that at rural health centers there have been many cases of this disease, which can be fatal. This station was told that the authorities may declare a national emergency in response to the great number of cases that have been reported in the past week throughout the country. [Excerpts] [PA171841 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 16 Jul 84]

POLIO OUTBREAKS--Public Health Secretariat authorities have issued an official bulletin on the current poliomyelitis outbreak. It indicated that there have been 26 confirmed cases, 4 deaths, and 31 suspected cases. The distribution of the 26 confirmed cases is as follows: 5 in the Tegucigalpa metropolitan region; 5 in the Danli region; 2 in the Comayagua region; 5 in the San Pedro Sula region; 4 in the Choluteca region; and 4 in the La Ceiba region [number as heard]. The Public Health Secretariat is working hard to achieve 100-percent immunization of the country's children. [Summary] [PA261553 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 25 Jul 84]

CSO: 5400/2083

'DEADLY' MALARIA STRAIN IDENTIFIED; DRAINS SUSPECT

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 1 Jul 84 p 9

[Article by Ringo Sinn]

[Text]

A doctor has called for improvements to the drains on Cheung Chau following the discovery of a case of a deadly form of malaria on the island.

A Filipina on Cheung Chau was found two weeks ago to be suffering from two kinds of malaria — including the dangerous malaria falciparum variety — according to a Medical and Health Department official.

She was taken to Princess Margaret Hospital for treatment.

Her condition is now described as "satisfactory."

It is not yet clear whether she contracted the disease on the island.

Nevertheless, a Cheung Chau doctor called for the island's drainage system to be upgraded as a precaution.

He explained that malaria was caused by a parasite which usually grows in dirty ditches frequented by the mosquitoes which carry the disease.

"They are unhygienic and create a great risk," said the doctor.

He said malaria was rare on Cheung Chau.

When it did occur, patients were sent to hospitals in the city for advanced treatment.

Nevertheless, early identification of the symptoms and quick treatment could save lives, he said.

There are four types of malaria, the most dangerous being malaria falciparum which can cause brain damage.

The case of the Filipina is the second of the malaria falciparum type to be reported in Hongkong this year.

In May, an American tourist was found to be suffering from the same variety.

He had been to Indonesia and Thailand before coming to Hongkong.

About 30 malaria cases have been reported in Hongkong this year, according to the Medical and Health Department.

There have been no fatalities.

Every year, teams from the department visit about 80 villages in the New Territories advising people to clean up dirty ditches.

They also spray insecticide to prevent mosquitoes breeding.

HONG KONG

BRIEFS

TYPHOID, HEPATITIS IN MACAU--Macau, June 21--Residents have been asked to be extra cautious about hygiene in view of a sudden surge in the number of typhoid and hepatitis cases. A spokesman for Kiang Wu Hospital said today that patients suffering from both diseases had been on the increase in the last few weeks. On Wednesday, there were 21 typhoid patients, including 17 children, and 54 hepatitis patients at the hospital, the spokesman said. [Text] [Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 22 Jun 84 p 17]

CSO: 5440/017

BRIEFS

MALTA FEVER CASES—The district health department recently recorded about 50 cases of Malta fever resulting from the purchase of meats and dairy products, primarily yoghurt cheese and cheese from unknown sources, especially from itinerant sellers. The agencies concerned believe that the above figure is not the true one, as it is expected that there will be double this number of cases in Jerusalem and its suburbs and the West Bank. A number of cases have appeared in Silwan, Shu'fat camp and Qalandiya. Malta fever is caused by consumption of meat and dairy products from affected animals, especially cattle. [Text]
[Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 12 Jul 84 p 4]

WEST BANK TYPHOID CASES—Nabulus--During the past week a number of typhoid cases from Nabulus and the subdistrict most of them children, have been admitted to the city hospital. Health sources have remarked that health care, concern with hygiene, thorough washing of fresh foods such as fruits and vegetables and boiling drinking water are the best way to prevent this disease. [Text]
[Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 28 Jun 84 p 4]

CSO: 5400/4523

MALAWI

BRIEFS

BILHARZIA WARNING—AN OFFICIAL from the Mwanza District Hospital has advised people to avoid bathing in rivers and streams which are the main sources of bilharzia infection. Speaking at a District Development Committee meeting at the Boma this week the official said many people were suffering from bilharzia, and measures were underway to eradicate the disease.--~~Mana~~ [Excerpt]
[Blantyre MALAWI NEWS in English 23-29 Jun 84 p 8]

CSO: 5400/161

SLEEPING SICKNESS KILLS 20 IN SAPELE

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 16 Jun 84 p 16

[Text]

TWENTY persons have died of sleeping sickness in Sapele, Bendel State, over the last two months because of lack of field surveillance, the Director of Nigerian Institute for Trypanosomiasis Research, (NITR), Kaduna, Alhaji Yakubu Magaji has said.

He told the New Nigerian in Kaduna that Bendel, Anambra and a few other states earlier declared tse-tse fly-free zones had been seriously infested again for lack of field surveillance.

Alhaji Yakubu said immediate attention had to be given by the institute to curbing its spread to other parts of the country.

He said the institute would send a team of research experts to undertake a 10-day survey of the affected areas to assess the extent of spread, sources of contact and likely carriers of the disease whenever the Federal Military Government made fund available.

Alhaji Yakubu said since 1977,

the institute, which had engaged in research work on the disease for nearly 40 years, had not been able to do much due to financial constraints.

He said the institute was carrying out extensive field work that would last up to six months but could now hardly carry through one-third of the target.

He said until now, the NITR, like other research institutes, had not got its share of the 14 million Naira capital expenditure earmarked for all the 22 research institutes, adding that delay in disbursement was not in the interest of the institutes.

The director said a report of the disease was made in Mubi in Gongola State last year but the institute could not do much for the same reason.

However, he said efforts were now being made to mobilise a team of research experts to the areas suspected to be prone to the disease to contain it.

CS0: 5400/163

PERU

BRIEFS

MENINGITIS SCARE CLOSES SCHOOL—Children, especially of school age, are threatened by meningitis which, while it can occur at any season, has its greatest incidence at low temperatures like those of the current Lima winter. In addition to the two cases recently detected in the Gertrude Hanks school, which have caused the temporary closing of the institution, there are 17 under care in Children's Hospital, where 3 have died. On 19 July, meningitis was detected in San Jorge prison, from which an afflicted prisoner escaped. The illness also attacked other inmates, who had to be removed to Dos de Mayo Hospital. Meningitis, believed eradicated, has been affecting the population since last year. [Excerpt] [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 22 Jul 84 p A-11]

CSO: 5400/2084

PORTUGAL

BRIEFS

TYPHOID FEVER CASES--Cases of typhoid fever have been detected in the Estremoz district, Dr Rui Magalhaes, director of the Estremoz health center, disclosed, adding that 17 cases of typhoid were registered last month. Most of the people affected live in rural areas and all were hospitalized. Dr Rui Magalhaes attributed these cases to the insufficient amount of chlorine in the city water supply; consequently, the health center recommended that an inspection be carried out and advised the Estremoz municipality to empty the Gadanha lake. [Excerpt] [Lisbon A TARDE in Portuguese 1 Aug 84 p 4]

CSO: 5400/2540

BRIEFS

MALARIA INCREASES IN NATAL—DURBAN.--Malaria cases in Natal have more than doubled in the past two months and the area where preventative treatment is now necessary has crept to within 40 km of Durban. During May, more than 500 cases were reported. The outbreak has been described by the Department of State Health as the worst in a number of years. Before the outbreak, preventative measures were necessary only north of Mtunzini, about 120 km north of Durban. Health authorities said that while there was no call for panic they were "tremendously concerned" at the number of cases which, since April has jumped dramatically to more than 800. Of these, only 45 were "imported" cases, mainly from Mozambique and Swaziland. About 50 of the more recent cases were detected near St Lucia. Between January and April there were only 263 cases of malaria. Because of this increase, certain areas in Natal could be reclassified as malaria areas to incorporate them into the recognized affected areas. People travelling north of Tongaat are now advised to take preventative measures. The Ingwavuma and Ubombo districts are, however, still regarded as the endemic malaria areas. Dr J van Rensburg, regional director of State Health in Natal, said the outbreaks in the St Lucia area were surprisingly far south compared with those of past outbreaks. [Text] [Capetown THE CAPE TIMES in English 15 Jun 84 p 5]

CSO: 5400/162

BRIEFS

SLEEPING SICKNESS CASES REPORTED DOWN--Juba, July 12--Sleeping sickness cases in the Southern Regions this year reached 1,290 of which 43 cases ended in death, declared [the] Director of Sleeping Sickness Combat Project, Lirango District, Western Equatoria Province Giovanni Agot. The Project's medical teams examined this year 32,000 people and recorded only 400 cases while the same area in 1978 had 1,500 cases thanks to the high efficiency of the teams. Agot expressed his hope for further decrease in cases as the Project proposals for 1984/85 aim at increasing medical combat units in areas where the disease and tsetse flies prevail. Five units will be established in Western Equatoria and 11 at Eastern Equatoria and a training centre will be set up in Juba similar to the Lirango Centre, Agot said. The Central Ministry of Health, he said, approved the sum of L.S. 200,000 for the support of mobile units. The Belgian Government has donated \$200,000 for the Project and the German Technical Cooperation Programme offered \$560,000 for the Yei River District combat effort. The World Health Organization agreed to pay \$40,000. Further efforts are being made to recruit support and donations from other international organizations. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English No 4921, 12 Jul 84 p 4]

CSO: 5400/4524

RESEARCH YIELDS NEW UNDERSTANDING OF AIDS

Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 12 Jul 84 p 24

[Text] The probable contagion for the ~~immu~~unity deficiency disease AIDS is already present in Sweden.

Antibodies against the much-discussed virus have been found in the blood of homosexual males in Sweden.

This means that thousands of homosexual males might have been exposed to the contagion and be carriers themselves.

"Our fears of a dreaded AIDS epidemic have unfortunately been realized. If nothing is done to check its spread, an AIDS epidemic will break out in Sweden," says Linda Morfeldt-Mansson, a physician at Stockholm's Roslagstulls Hospital.

The State Bacteriological Laboratory (SBL) last week received results on the several hundred blood samples from homosexuals which had been sent to the United States for analysis. Most of the samples had been taken from patients with chronic enlargement of the lymph glands, which has been shown in most cases to be caused by the same virus that can give rise to AIDS. All the tests from Swedish AIDS patients turned out to contain antibodies against the virus, whereas the tests of the control group were negative.

Hundreds

"These results clearly corroborate that the AIDS virus is in Sweden," says Professor Gunnar Biberfeld at SBL. Even though the number of confirmed cases of the disease is presently small—seven confirmed cases—hundreds of patients are going around with immunological mutations which were most likely brought about by the AIDS virus. It is still unclear, however, how many of these will actually develop the disease. Nor is it known how many of those who have come in contact with the contagion are carriers themselves.

"The only way to halt the threat of an epidemic now is to influence the sex habits of the homosexual," says Georg von Krogh, physician at the reception center for homosexual males at South Hospital in Stockholm, Venhalsan.

Together with some colleagues in Stockholm, he has recently taken the initiative to form a society for the protection of the health of homosexuals: Swedish Doctors for Health of Homosexuals. The goal is primarily to advise preventive remedies for protecting oneself best against AIDS.

Condom

The single best way to protect oneself against the disease at present is to minimize the number of sexual partners and to use a condom.

"Even homosexuals with few partners might be vulnerable to contracting the disease," says Linda Morfeldt-Mansson. A single sexual encounter is enough to contract the disease. It is thus important always to use a condom and avoid all contact with body fluids such as blood, urine and sperm.

The society is also urging everyone who has not had jaundice or hepatitis B to be vaccinated against this disease. Jaundice of this type can be a contributing factor in contracting AIDS. The department of health is also providing information next week to medical personnel and others involved about how the infection can be contained and how the health of those in vulnerable groups can be improved.

Increase

"We think there will be an increase in the number of AIDS cases but we don't want to talk about an epidemic," says department head Lennart Rinder at the department of health.

It is calculated that there are altogether between 200,000 and 300,000 homosexual males in Sweden. How many of these are vulnerable to the disease, no one can say with certainty.

Over the past few years, more and more homosexuals have tended to seek medical attention for various symptoms such as fever, swollen lymph glands and diarrhea, symptoms that can be signs of reduced immunity.

How many of these have been exposed to the probable contagion for AIDS cannot be said until after about 6 months, when SBL expects to obtain use of the current test from the United States.

Five Years

"Since the disease has such a long incubation period--up to 5 years--it is important that something be done now," stresses Linda Morfeldt-Mansson. "Presently there are no effective methods of treatment for the disease. The only way to save lives is to get the homosexuals to change their sexual habits," she emphasizes.

9992

CSO: 5400/2536

CHIANG MAI HIT BY ANTHRAX

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 25 Apr 84 p 10

[Text]

CHIANG MAI DOCTORS here have issued a warning of the dangers of infection by anthrax, following reports of several cases among villagers in northern districts of the province.

A medical team has been sent to inspect the victims. "But their report on the outbreak is not available yet," the North Bureau was told by Dr Mongkol na Songkla, deputy head of the Chiang Mai Provincial Public Health Office.

One confirmed case of the disease was reported in Fang District, where a villager from Tambon San Sai was taken to the district hospital for treatment. Dr Mongkol said that more than 10 families were thought to have been infected so far.

The villager contracted the disease when she and her neighbours ate meat from a buffalo infected by anthrax. The buffalo had been killed and roasted to celebrate Songkran.

Dr Mongkol said the disease had been detected among cattle and pigs in villages in Fang, Mae Ai and Chiang Dao districts, where it was still spreading.

"Many more cattle and pigs in these areas are expected also to be infected," he said.

Doctors have urged villagers to help prevent any further spread of the disease by burying infected animal carcasses.

Beef, buffalo meat or pork bought from markets should be boiled for at least half an hour before eating, to kill off any bacteria that might be present, the doctors advised.

The disease is caused by the bacteria *Bacillus anthracis*, and is passed on by physical contact, or through the digestive or respiratory systems.

Victims infected through physical contact will suffer swellings and skin inflammation during the early stages, which last about three days. Black spots can be clearly seen in the swellings, which will later develop into ulcers.

Such cases are more easily treated than those resulting from infection of the digestive or respiratory system. Infection of the digestive system leads to inflammation and serious ulcers in the throat, and causes severe diarrhoea. The most serious cases are those resulting from inhalation of anthrax spores. Initial symptoms are difficulty in

breathing and swelling at the throat.

Victims of anthrax normally die within seven days unless the proper medical treatment is available. The doctors urged that any villagers suspected of suffering from the disease should be given immediate medical attention.

A medical team has been sent by Chiang Mai Provincial Public Health Office to give advice to villagers on measures to guard against the spread of the disease, said an official.

The last reported outbreak of anthrax in the province was two years ago, when the disease spread in Chiang Dao, Mae Taeng, Mae Ai and Wiang Haeng sub-district. Two people died and 15 others were treated for the disease at Nakhon Chiang Mai Hospital.

CSO: 5400/4441

INCIDENCE OF RABIES

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Apr 84 p 1

[Text]

WITH more than 10.7 million dogs, Thailand inevitably has an unenviable record as the country with the most rabies cases in the world, a senior official of the Public Health Ministry said yesterday.

He said more than 60 per cent of the dogs examined by the ministry last year were found to have the disease.

Vara Misomboon, chief of the communicable disease section of the Department of Communicable Disease Control, said 56,252 people were reported to have been bitten by dogs last year compared to 601 by cats.

A total of 11,139 dogs were examined by authorities and 6,926 of them were found to be affected by rabies.

He said the Public Health Ministry last year gave anti-rabies injections to 269,765 dogs and killed 163,700 strayed dogs by shooting and drugging.

Dog-owners often neglect their pets while some Buddhist temples were found to keep large number of dogs. "Sometimes we were not allowed by the monks to get rid of the dogs," he said.

He said the ministry is drafting a new legislation that will make anti-rabies injection compulsory. Fines and jail term will be imposed on dog-owners who fail to have their pets receive injection.

The draft calls for a fine of 3,000 baht for each dog and 1,000 baht or two-month jail term for its owner.

CSO: 5400/4441

BRIEFS

MALARIA PATIENTS—The number of malaria patients nationwide dropped by 42 per cent last year from that of 1982, according to senior officials of the Public Health Ministry. Director General of the Communicable Disease Department Dr Winit Atsawasena cited 10 provinces where malaria still posed a problem. They are Chanthaburi, Tak, Prachin Buri, Kanchanaburi, Nakhon Ratchasima, Sisaket, Surat Thani, Songkhla and Yala. He said these provinces had a combined number of 116,227 malaria patients last year or about 43.6 per cent of the total malaria patients throughout the country. He said the number of the malaria patients in the 10 provinces last year dropped by 42.7 percent or 86,620 from that of 1982. [Excerpts] [Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 17 Jun 84 p 2 BK]

CSO: 5400/4443

XUAN THUY DISTRICT ENDEAVORS TO ELIMINATE MALARIA

Hanoi SUC KHOE in Vietnamese 5 Jun 84 p 7

[Article by "P.V.": "Xuan Thuy District in Ha Nam Ninh Province Promotes Task of Eliminating Malaria"]

[Text] Xuan Thuy is a large district in the southeastern part of Ha Nam Ninh Province which has a coastline more than 30 km long and is bordered by three rivers: the Red, So, and Ninh. Xuan Thuy has a population of more than 280,000 people who live on an area of 260,000 square km. According to the accepted standard, the malaria area extends inland from the coast 30 km, so the entire district lies within the coastal malaria area. Despite many years of study, prevention, and opposition, the malaria situation in Xuan Thuy District still has not stabilized and a number of pockets of disease still persist here and there in a number of coastal salt-making, fishing, and rush-growing villages. The pockets of disease usually occur cyclically in April and May, with the high points coming in August, September, and October. They are caused primarily by Plasmodium vivax. The ratio of people with malaria parasites has traditionally been high and has tended to increase during the past 2 years.

Although the malaria situation is still undergoing changes and the ratio of villages with malaria parasites is still high (more than 10 percent), in recent years the public health cadres and people of Xuan Thuy District have been able to perform basic tasks, especially the construction of a broad specialized anti-malaria network extending down to basic-level public health clinics, and have detected epidemics at an early date and prevented the occurrence of major epidemics or deaths caused by malaria. Many villages have done a relatively good job of eliminating malaria. On the basis of those actualities and results, the cadres and people of Xuan Thuy District decided that they could endeavor to attain the standard of the district eliminating malaria by the end of 1985. After making that decision, Xuan Thuy District held a recapitulation conference and launched a district-wide emulation movement. A district malaria prevention, fighting, and elimination guidance committee headed by the chairman of the district people's committee was formed. The district's anti-malaria sanitation units were strengthened, so that they consisted of a doctor, eight medical aides, and three middle-school educated medical orderlies, with ample testing facilities. The public health teams of villages, construction sites, state farms, enterprises, etc., were trained with regard to malaria.

In order to fulfill its mission and attain the goal of eliminating malaria by the end of 1985, in addition to extensive propaganda among the people and coordination among the relevant sectors, the Xuan Thuy District public health sector has applied specialized technical measures throughout the district. It is now tightly managing and wiping out the old pockets of disease and has launched a campaign to test blood for malaria parasites in all villages, construction sites, state farms, state forests, and military units throughout the district, and is closely monitoring and managing the external sources of the disease.

Those tasks began at the beginning of 1984 and will be completed by the end of 1985.

5616

CS0: 5400/4433

PERIPNEUMONIA, BRUCELLOSIS NOTED IN CATTLE HERDS

Financial Burden for State

Lisbon DIARIO DE LISBOA in Portuguese 11 Jul 84 p 7

[Text] Aveiro--The outbreak of contagious peripneumonia is presently costing the state about 10,000 contos per month in indemnities in the coastal region alone, a Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food (MAFA) expert declared yesterday, speaking at a roundtable discussion on "Animal Health" in connection with "Agro-Vouga/84."

The amount the state pays monthly in indemnities for the slaughter of cattle throughout the country, about 20,000 contos, was also stressed at the same meeting. "Up to now, the state has already paid the indemnities due to slaughters made up to April," said Fontes e Sousa, a MAFA expert.

Meanwhile a regional official added that owing to the outbreak of contagious peripneumonia the production of milk, which had reached a value of close to 10 million contos in Beira Litoral has decreased greatly. In the last 2 years, the region has suffered a loss in the order of 1.7 million contos.

"That loss reflects a decrease of about 55 million liters," said that regional expert.

The actual control of the peripneumonia was called into question at the roundtable, with one veterinary doctor from Figueira da Foz declaring that the "margins of error in laboratory examinations are very great and in some cases there are cows that show the disease in the examination and later do not show any pulmonary effects."

Peripneumonia was, therefore, the central topic of the discussions, with some officials declaring that the health situation of the cattle herds along the coast "is better controlled than about a year ago." Other speakers voiced severe criticism of the official presentation and expressed doubts about the actions taken to control the epizooty.

Fight Against Brucellosis

Another speaker, Antonio Almeida, declared that in the social area "nothing is being done to conquer the peripneumonia," while an expert of the Ministry of Agriculture regretted the "lack of human resources in the services" in order to combat the disease effectively.

The participants at the roundtable referred also to brucellosis, a disease which, according to Fontes e Sousa, affects cattle "in a higher percentage than may be thought, being perhaps the greatest problem of the national herds.

"Only the appearance of peripneumonia has prevented the official services from already undertaking a systematic program for fighting brucellosis," maintained Antonio Valente of the agricultural subregional of Aveiro.

The establishment of a punitive system to discourage the farmers who still put up resistance to the laboratory examination of the cattle was also advocated in the course of the roundtable on "Animal Health."

Weekly Losses

Lisbon DIARIO DE LISBOA in Portuguese 16 Jul 84 p 20

[Text] An average of 20 cows affected by peripneumonia are being slaughtered every week in the slaughterhouse of Figueira da Foz. According to the slaughterhouse veterinarian, Jose Ramano, the cattle belong to the municipalities of Figueira da Foz, Cantanhede and Mira.

8711

CSO: 5400/2359

MANGOES, COCONUTS UNDER ATTACK FROM INSECTS

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 30 Jun 84 p 14

[Excerpts] "*Sternochetes mangiferae*" is a small insect which has recently caused a minor panic among many fruit lovers here and has made the local consumer and farmer, wary of one of the island's most popular and oldest fruits--the mango.

During this year's mango season, the tiny, black, spiky-legged insect simply known as the mango-seed weevil was discovered in the local produce, shedding a new light on the fruit which has long been taken for granted.

Dunley Auguste, a member of the Crop Protection Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture, said that the public need not be afraid of the insect, which he said did not interfere with the edibility of the fruit.

"There is no need for anyone to fear this weevil neither should anyone be afraid of eating the fruit. The weevil remains within the mango seed all the time. When the fruit ages and the seed splits open the weevil escapes. By that time the fruit has rotted away and is of no use to anyone."

But while the mango-seed weevil does not affect the quality of the fruit, the Crop Protection Unit is concerned with the damage which the insect may wreak on the reproduction of the fruit which they say will eventually affect the produce, yieldwise.

Said Auguste, "Since the weevil feeds on the cotyledon which is the reproductive parts of the mango, these fruits will not be able to propagate. Full growth trees are not affected, but this insect could affect the export market of certain mangoes on the island when we are unable to reproduce the fruit on a wide scale."

Questioned on the existence of the insect which only recently made its presence felt on the local market, Agriculturists say that this is the first time that the mango seed weevil has affected fruit here on such a wide scale.

Meanwhile, the island's second largest crop covering approximately 23,000 acres is being threatened by another miniature insect popularly known as the coconut mite.

The creature which affects nothing more than the size of the coconut is causing a furore among farmers who now have to yield more nuts to meet the demand of their markets.

"The coconut mite is causing a lot of losses to farmers since it restricts the size of the nut itself. With the smaller coconut, it takes approximately 8,000 to 10,000 nuts to produce a ton of copra, while with the normal sized nut it would take about 4,000 to 5,000 nuts," said a Spokesman from the Crop Protection Unit.

But in the case of the coconut mite, the Unit has been aware of its existence on the island before. "We always suspected the existence of the coconut mite here but it never caused much damage."

CSO: 5440/019

THAILAND

BRIEFS

BURIRAM LOCUST OUTBREAK—An agricultural official in Buriram Province reported that patanga locusts have spread to destroy maize in a 32,000 rai area in two tambons of Nang Rong District, Buriram Province. The province has reported it to the pest control unit in Surin Province and the Cooperatives Promotion Department. A special pest control unit from Lop Buri has been sent to control the spread of patanga locusts. The official announced that an eradication campaign has been launched in these areas to prevent further spread and that consuming of patanga locusts is strictly forbidden. [Summary] [BK161530 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1300 GMT 13 Jul 84 BK]

CSO: 5400/4444

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